1. An apparatus for processing a first type of program having both audio and video content and a second type of program having audio-only content,

5   characterized in that:

memory means for storing display information representing an animated image;

control means for determining whether a selected program is the first type of program having both audio and video content or the second type of program

10   having audio-only content; and the control means causes the playing of the audio content and displaying of the video content when the selected program is a first type of program and causes the playing of the audio-only content and displaying of the animated image when the selected program is a second type of program.

15   2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the control means determines the type of program based on program guide information received.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein program guide information is displayed along with the animated image.

20

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the animated image serves as a screen saver.

5. An apparatus for processing a first type of program having both audio and

25   video content and a second type of program having audio-only content, characterized in that:

memory means for storing display information representing an animated image;

user control means for selecting a first and a second mode;

30   control means for determining whether a selected program is the first type of program having both audio and video content or the second type of program having audio-only content; and

the control means causes, when the selected program is a first type of program, the playing of the audio content and displaying of the video content; and

35   causes, when the selected program is a second type of program, in the first mode,

26

the playing of the audio-only content and displaying of the animated image, and in the second mode, the playing of the audio-only content and displaying of a static screen.

---

5   6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the static screen is a blank screen.

7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the static screen is a blue screen.

8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the control means determines the type 10   of program based on program guide information received.

9. A method for processing a first type of program having both audio and video content and a second type of program having audio-only content, characterized in that:

15   storing display information representing an animated image;

determining whether a selected program is the first type of program having both audio and video content or the second type of program having audio-only content;

causing the playing of the audio content and displaying of the video 20   content when the selected program is a first type of program; and

causing the playing of the audio-only content and displaying of the animated image when the selected program is a second type of program.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the determining step is based on program 25   guide information received.

11. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of displaying program guide information along with the animated image.

12. A method for processing a first type of program having both audio and video content and a second type of program having audio-only content, characterized in that:

5   storing display information representing an animated image;

         selecting a first and a second mode;

         determining whether a selected program is the first type of program having both audio and video content or the second type of program having audio-

10   only content;

         causing, when the selected program is a first type of program, the playing of the audio content and displaying of the video content;

         and causing, when the selected program is a second type of program, in the first mode, playing of the audio-only content and displaying of the animated

15   image, and in the second mode, playing of the audio-only content and displaying of a static screen.

       13. The method of claim 12 wherein the static screen is a blank screen.

20   14. The method of claim 12 wherein the static screen is a blue screen.

       15. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the determining step is based on program guide information received.

25   16. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the animated image serves as a screen saver.